



Flathead Conservation District
133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901
www.flatheadcd.org 406-752-4220

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Chair Pete Woll called the May 28, 2019, Business meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present:

Pete Woll, Chair; Lori Curtis, Vice Chair; Dean Sirucek, Secretary/Treasurer; John Ellis, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor; Ronald Buentemeier, Supervisor, being a quorum of the Board.

Also, in attendance were Valerie Kurth and Ginger Kauffman, FCD staff; Roger Noble, Applied Water Consulting; Sean Johnson, NRCS; Beth Schule, Kalispell Middle School; Casey Malmquist, Malmquist Construction; Bruce Boody, Landscape Architect Inc.; Joshua Smith, Slopeside Engineering.

MINUTES

Lori Curtis motioned “to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2019, 310-Stream Permit meeting as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Email: Meetings, Events

1. Local Government Budget & Special Purpose District Financial Reporting Workshops:
May 30 -Shelby (9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.)
June 6 -Polson (10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.)
June 11 – Butte (10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.)
June 19 – Glasgow (10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.)
June 20 – Billings (10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.)
For further information contact: Local Government Services, 406-444-9101.
RSVP to: LGSPortalregistration@mt.gov
2. 5th Annual Dalmatian Toadflax Biocontrol Workday at the Bison Range will be held June 5th, 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Contact molly@missoulaeduplace.org 406-258-4208

Email: Newsletters, Publications

1. National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)
The Resource report, eResource, Conservation Clips
 2. Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) *District Dispatch*
<https://macdnet.org/>
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& Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM)
The Montana Conservationist <https://swcdm.org/>

3. Montana Watershed Coordination Council *Watershed News*
<https://mtwatersheds.org/app/>

Email: **Other**

1. Seeking Request for Proposals from individuals and/or local organizations interested in hosting/cost-sharing a position for a Seasonal Habitat Specialist, June-October 2019. The work will occur in Valley, Phillips, Fergus, and Petroleum counties. The National Wildlife Federation has a lump sum of \$15,000 to award as a contract or grant to support this work for the (first) annual five-month work season. Submit a letter of interest/proposal and a statement of qualifications/resume by **May 15, 2019** to Sarah Bates, National Wildlife Federation, 240 N. Higgins, Ste. 2, Missoula, MT 59802, BatesS@nwf.org
<https://www.nwf.org/Northern-Rockies-and-Pacific-Region>

FINANCIAL

The following bill was paid prior to the meeting:

1. CenturyLink \$299.67

The following bills were reviewed:

1. Bruce Barrett \$303.99
2. Cardi Chmielewski \$332.63
3. Flathead County Water-Sewage Dist. #1 \$250.00
4. Flathead County Weed Dist. \$8,732.00
5. FVCC \$1,000.00
6. Laurence Gregory Magone \$1,031.18
7. MontanaSky Networks Inc. \$10.00
8. Mountain States Leasing – Kalispell \$1,599.73
9. Washington State University \$500.00
10. Wellesley College \$1,000.00
11. Montana State University Bozeman \$500.00
12. Montana State University Bozeman \$1,000.00
13. Cascade CD \$230.00
14. Garfield CD \$450.00
15. Lake County CD \$80.00
16. Montana Conservation Corps \$804.22
17. Montana Watershed Coordination Council \$5826.35
18. Park CD \$636.35
19. Petroleum CD \$415.00

Lori Curtis motioned “to approve the bills as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



PUBLIC COMMENT

No one was present to comment on items not listed on the agenda.

Education Grants: Valerie Kurth stated that two applicants were in attendance to present requests for education grants, and that she also had a question related to the tower gardens that were approved at the last meeting.

Kalispell Middle School

Beth Schule stated she is a Family Consumer Science teacher at Kalispell Middle School and explained that they have a school garden and a greenhouse. She would like to add a tower garden in her culinary classroom. In the fall, students harvest from the school garden and learn to cook with the food and students in the spring do garden starts and planting. The winter semester students do not have a similar experience, but the tower garden would offer them a hands-on opportunity. She gave an overview of her food education program, which includes a mini-hydroponic garden, guest speakers, and methods to grow food. Lori Curtis asked if the \$1,155.00 would cover everything that is needed. Beth replied yes and that it would be more expensive to purchase each item individually. Beth explained that the starter pack consists of the tower garden, which is approximately 5-feet tall, nutrients and seeds. She noted that she has support from the Whitefish Credit Union for ongoing costs as well as support from the school.

Flathead Audubon

Denny Olson, Flathead Audubon, provided background on a project he did several years ago on cottonwood regeneration, which was partially funded by a Flathead CD education grant, and he thanked the board for their previous support. Going forward, Flathead Audubon Society, Flathead Land Trust, and Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Region 1 are collaborating on a comprehensive education program centered on local birds that meets Montana Life Science educational standards and local place-based educational objectives. They will construct curriculum material, learning/education trunks (osprey and sandhill crane), set up a study area, provide personnel and volunteers to give presentations, teach and assist the curriculum sequence, provide field trips, and end with a summative assessment.

Denny described the program sequence for botanical studies using the 16 permanent plot points in the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area that were established for the Cottonwood Regeneration Study. Denny noted that DNRC owns Owen Sowerwine and Flathead Audubon manages it. High-school mentors will teach and coordinate the plant diversity studies for 5th graders, with adults there as consultants and chaperones. The 5th graders will do preliminary work on plants/plant diversity, then as 7th graders they will do the work in correlating the plants with the bird diversity at Owen Sowerwine.

John Ellis noted the video projector for \$750 listed in the request and asked if the schools had projectors that could be borrowed. Denny replied some of them do not, and we do not have a reliable projector to present to large groups. Denny introduced Gael Bissell and noted that she will be moving into Flathead Audubon's president position in a few weeks. Gael echoed that they have needed a good projector for the HD visuals for a long time.



Denny added that items purchased via a prior education grant are still being used. Gael and Denny explained that they have an MOU with the Montessori School for access, they have built an access bridge/boardwalk to the Owen Sowerwine area, and the outdoor school/interpretive trail area is almost complete.

Lori Curtis noted the education trunks in the request and asked when they planned to start the project. Denny replied immediately. Denny asked for clarification on the program timeline, and Valerie explained that the cutoff date for this fiscal year is June 14th. The request totaled \$2,267.00.

Columbia Falls High School

Valerie Kurth explained she had received an email from Erin Quintia, Columbia Middle School. Erin apologized for making a mistake on the proposed budget. When she ordered the lights for the three tower gardens, she thought they came in packages of three, however only one light was included. She would like to purchase two more lights and the cost, including shipping, is \$540.00.

Lori Curtis stated all three projects together total \$3462.00 and asked about the district's budget. Valerie replied we budgeted \$13,500 initially, and after paying one grant the budget still has \$11,438. The requests for the frogs, CSE and the original Columbia Falls request totals \$4100, so there are still funds available.

Lori Curtis motioned to “approve the Kalispell Middle School, Flathead Audubon Society education grant requests, and the additional lights for Columbia Falls Middle School.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

310

95 Karrow: John Ellis explained this application is for a project at the old Idaho Timber property, and he reviewed the items, which included: removal of historic wood chip debris that has been dumped on the property over the years; installation of a dock; construction of a pedestrian/bike trail to connect into the Whitefish trail system; construction of a stormwater outfall; construction of a bridge; building paths to connect to existing Whitefish trail system; construction of three segments of retaining wall; and installation of an irrigation intake pipe. The application was previously tabled to allow the applicants a chance to present to the entire board at this meeting.

Casey Malmquist introduced himself as the developer of the 95 Karrow project and thanked the board for fitting the 310 into the business meeting. He stated the items which John listed were in the scope of work relating to the project; however, the presentation will more specifically identify what we are applying for and how they relate to the 310-permit. He explained that this is not a city project, it is a private development. He said he consulted with Bruce Boody, and they had reviewed and studied the Whitefish Master Plan, the 93 West Corridor Plan and proposed zoning changes, and the Bike Path Master Plan. Their intentions were to follow those plans to the best of their abilities and within all the regulations. They have already executed a growth policy change and recommended zone changes. They also went through the Planned Unit Development (PUD) process, of which



one of the requirements is to secure all necessary permits, including a 310-permit. They have not initiated work on the property other than soil boring and investigatory work. Casey introduced Roger Noble with Applied Water Consulting, Josh Smith with Slopeside Engineering, and Bruce Boody with Bruce Boody Landscape Architects. Casey stated Roger Noble will give a presentation to provide perspective of the land's history, as well as their process, research, and data.

Roger Noble provided handouts to the board. John asked if there were any changes on the handout from the diagram distributed in the field. Roger stated no, except for the addition of a header in the key.

Roger explained that this is a multi-component project on the west end of Whitefish at the north end of Karrow street. The Whitefish River forms the northern and eastern boundaries of the site. He explained the colors and shading on the site map and provided a short history of the property from 1910. He emphasized that the property has undergone significant alterations over recent history, mainly from the placement of fill debris.

Dean Sirucek asked if the wetland delineation was federal jurisdictional wetland or functional wetland. Roger replied it was a functional wetland.

Roger reviewed some of the key definitions from the Flathead CD's Adopted Rules: channel, floodplain, immediate banks, mean high water mark, and retaining wall. He noted that their application has three retaining walls but asked the board to look at them with respect to the Adopted Rules because they may not fall under 310-jurisdiction. He also provided some supplemental definitions, including "adjacent" and "top of bank." He presented a definition of top of bank used by Portland, Oregon. Roger showed images of and described two representative cross-sections of the site. One showed the gradual slope of the upstream part of the project and the other showed the steeper slope at the downstream end.

Ronald Buentemeier asked if fill material would have to be removed to build the trail. Josh said that it would not be much, if any. He is more concerned about adding fill to build the trail. He does not want to add a lot of weight to the land, so he would like to use geofoam or a similar lightweight material to fill for the trail. Ronald asked if any part of the trail would be built over the wood chip debris. Josh responded that there could be a little bit of that fill on the far west side of the property. Roger pointed out the unstable parts of the site where slumping had occurred, which is part of the rationale for using a lightweight fill material for construction.

Kenny Breidinger asked if Roger had any additional cross-sections because the topography is quite variable. Roger said he did not but explained where the historic fill material would have to be removed. Bruce Boody added that they have identified the fill removal area to the best of their ability based on the boring information, but they will not know for sure until they actually begin.

Dean Sirucek asked about the composition of the fill and if it contained inorganic material. John Ellis showed Dean the chart of the boring information that was provided with the application.



Discussion continued regarding the trail construction and whether it would be considered part of the immediate bank, and, thus, 310-jurisdiction. Dean used the cross-sections to estimate the distance from the trail to the river at approximately 35 ft. Roger added that the distance from the trail to the mean high-water mark is approximately 20 feet.

Kenny said that parts of the trail go much closer to the river than 20 feet and pointed to the site plan map. He felt the trail should all be under the district's jurisdiction. Bruce explained that on the east end of the project, where the trail got very close to the river, was intended for access to the river. Roger added that the trail in that area would be on a raised boardwalk. John asked why the trail turned toward the river on the south side of the bridge. Bruce explained that it was matching the existing grade and had to be ADA-compliant. Dean asked about the boardwalk construction, and Bruce explained that it will be all helical-driven stainless steel, with no excavation, fill, or concrete.

Roger reviewed the items included in the application and offered his interpretation of whether or not they should fall under 310-jurisdiction. Removal of historic fill material was not likely to be jurisdictional because of the relatively long distance from the river. Dean thought that the small part on the eastern edge might be included because of its proximity. Roger stated that the dock is definitely in 310-jurisdiction. Bruce explained that there are two components: floating and stationary. Stationary part goes along the bank. It is 160-foot long and 14-foot wide. It will accommodate the trail use and be ADA-compliant. The floating part provides river access and includes a ramp from the bank. The east-west length is 160 feet and the north-south wings are 50 feet. The floating dock width is 8 feet on all portions.

Roger continued going over the application components and his opinion of their jurisdiction. He compared the retaining walls in their application to the definition in the Flathead CD's Adopted Rules, which specifies protection from wave action. He noted that these retaining walls are structural, so do not meet the definition in the Adopted Rules and are likely not jurisdictional. Roger stated that the trail construction is not within the immediate bank except for the east end of it. He thought the connector path on the south side of the property was not jurisdictional, but that the stormwater outfall, bridge, and irrigation pipe were all under 310-jurisdiction.

Roger then reviewed the considerations from Rule 10 in the Adopted Rules – Decision and offered his perspective. The effects on soil erosion and sedimentation would be nominal and they will be following a mandated stormwater pollution prevention plan. He did not believe there were reasonable modifications or alternatives since they have already designed the trail to be as far as possible from the river. He did not think flooding was likely since there was not going to be anything installed to raise the water level, and he felt that channel alterations were nominal and mainly associated with the irrigation intake pipe. He expected the effects on stream flow, turbidity, and water quality to be minimal, and reminded the board that their site plan is intended to concentrate access and use of the river to the small area on the east edge of the property. He did not anticipate harmful effects to fish and aquatic habitat.



Verdell Jackson asked how long the entire trail will be. Bruce stated that it is about 1,400 feet long.

Ronald Buentemeier gave a brief overview of the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act (310 Law). He believes the trail system in Whitefish should be handled by FWP and that this was not fair to the applicant. The City of Whitefish has been planning and developing their trail system for a long time. The City went through an extensive public process, and FWP has had an opportunity to be part of it all along. The City's sewer line, which runs along the river, poses a much greater threat than the trail. Lori Curtis added that the City has already developed 22 miles of shared-use paths, almost 3 miles of which are adjacent to the river. The trail plan was finalized in 2016. The final plan was adopted in 2017 as an amendment to the growth policy. All of it went through a public process at numerous stages. She did not think it was fair to pick apart this particular project when so much of the system as has already been developed and there is so much community benefit to having a trail system. She believed this project had been thoughtfully planned and that the board should look at it holistically.

Casey expressed appreciation for the board. He stated that it is a private project on private land, and it is clearly a 310-permit application. Obtaining a 310 permit is part of the planning process and condition of approval.

Kenny stated that he agreed that the project was under 310-jurisdiction. He compared other places where the trail is already built, and how we normally would not allow an applicant to build a road along a stream bottom. He stated that his main concerns are with the trail and the bridge, but that the dock did not meet the specifications in the Adopted Rules. There is a trail running alongside the opposite side of the river and two footbridges within ¼ mile of the proposed bridge. Much of the proposed project is very close to the mean highwater mark, so it is definitely in 310-jurisdiction. He stated that we should also consider the cumulative impacts of projects like this, and there will be impacts to the streambank and its functions. He wanted the board to explore reasonable alternatives to the trail and bridge.

The board discussed their role in determining this application, and John Ellis proposed starting with the non-jurisdictional components of the application.

Per the drawing provided at the 5/28/2019 meeting – (95 KARROW PROJECT - KEY ID STREAMBANK WORK) John Ellis motioned “items #1- removal of unstable fill material, #6 - paths to connect existing Whitefish trail, and #7 - three segments of retaining wall **are not within the jurisdiction** of the Flathead CD.” Dean Sirucek seconded.

The board discussed and clarified that the path (#6) was different than the trail (#3). Kenny was concerned that this would prevent us from making modifications to the trail (#3). He asked the board about potentially modifying it to move the trail higher on the streambank and/or further away from the river. John clarified that his motion does not include the boardwalk portion (#2).

Question called for. The motion carried unanimously.



John Ellis motioned “that items #4 - the construction of the stormwater outfall and #8 - the intake irrigation pipe **are within the jurisdiction** of the Flathead CD.” Lori Curtis seconded.

No one asked any questions or requested modifications about those two components.

Question called for. The motion carried unanimously.

John Ellis motioned “that item #2 - installation of the dock **is within the jurisdiction** of the Flathead CD.” Lori Curtis seconded.

The board discussed the dock dimensions and ADA compliance. Casey provided clarification of what parts were stationary and what was floating, as well as their dimensions, by drawing a diagram on the whiteboard. The board discussed the floating dock length with respect to the adopted rules and how much of the floating portion would actually be in the water. They also discussed whether the exceptions described for dock length in the Flathead and Swan Rivers, which allow for additional length if the water depth is less than 5 feet, could be applicable here.

Pete suggested that the board approve the motion and request new dimensions from the applicant based on the slope and water depth.

John Ellis motioned “to amend the motion to say, “that item #2 - installation of the dock **is within the jurisdiction** of the Flathead CD, and the applicant is to submit a final design for our approval.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

John Ellis motioned “that item #5- the construction of the bridge and abutments **are within the jurisdiction** of the Flathead CD.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

John Ellis motioned “to approve construction of the bridge and abutments per the application.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

John Ellis motioned “that item #3 – the construction of the pedestrian/bike trail is within the jurisdiction of Flathead CD.” Ronald Buentemeier seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

John stated his main concern about the trail is the area between the bridge and the boardwalk on the east end of the site, and he wondered why the trail had to bend towards the river just below the bridge. Bruce explained that it is a function of the grade, but that the drawings were still conceptual, and he would make every effort to move the trail away from the river in that area while remaining ADA-compliant. Dean asked if the boardwalk could be extended northward to where the trail turns toward the river. Bruce stated that he thought John and Dean were trying to achieve the same thing and extending the boardwalk would be difficult because of the grade. He stated he would try to pull the trail back as far as possible.



Kenny stated that he believed the trail was on the immediate streambank and the material, asphalt, does not meet our adopted rules. It is also parallel to another asphalt trail on the other side of the river. He asked if the whole trail could be moved off of the streambank while maintaining the grade. He and Bruce discussed the grade, meeting ADA specifications, and relative impacts to the streambank. Dean stated that he believed there was sufficient slope distance, 20 feet, and vegetation to protect the river from bank erosion.

John Ellis motioned “to approve the construction of the pedestrian/bike trail as shown on the diagram in light blue #3 with the modification that the applicant try to readjust the section of the trail from the western end of the bridge to the northern end of the boardwalk to move it as far from the river as possible and maintain grade.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

John Ellis motioned “to approve the application as per the motions and modifications made earlier tonight.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointed Supervisor Letter: Valerie Kurth stated that Lech Naumovich is interested in joining the board as an Appointed Supervisor from Whitefish. Valerie drafted a letter to send to the City of Whitefish and explained Lech would be filling out the remainder of Lori Curtis’s term, which ends 12/31/2019. The City of Whitefish would then need to make two appointments in January 2020.

Verdell Jackson motioned “to approve the draft letter to the City of Whitefish to appoint a second supervisor.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Signature Authorizations and Credit Card Approval: Valerie Kurth explained that since the board recently changed officers, the board needs to consider the signatories on accounts and credit card. The signatories are usually the three officers plus extra people, so Lori Curtis should probably be added as a signatory on the accounts to sign checks. Supervisors encouraged Ronald Buentemeier to stay on as a signatory, which he agreed to, but he asked to be removed from the district credit card. John Ellis asked who is currently authorized to sign, and Valerie listed the supervisors who are currently signatories: Pete, Ronald, Dean, and Verdell.

Dean Sirucek motioned “to add Lori Curtis as a signatory to the Flathead CD accounts and leave the other signatories in place.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dean Sirucek motioned “to add Lori Curtis to the credit card with a limit of \$500 and to remove Ronald Buentemeier from the credit card. John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Valerie Kurth asked if Lori would be able to use the credit card for UC3 travel. Pete Woll stated we had made a motion some time ago that if she had extra expenses she could be reimbursed, but the credit card can be used as a backup.



End of Month Budget Report (April): Ginger Kauffman reviewed the April 2019 End of Month Report with the board. Dean Sirucek motioned “to approve the End of Month Report.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Flathead CD Staff: Valerie Kurth and Hailey Graf reported:

District Office and Outreach

1. Advertisements: Flathead Beacon – 310 Boat Dock ad & new Prevent Erosion ad.
2. Valerie, Hailey, and Ginger Kauffman participated in the MACD Convention Planning conference call. Ginger contacted Hedstrom Dairy about convention field trip options, and Hailey and Valerie are working on other possibilities.
3. Hailey attended the Forestry Expo wrap up meeting and the Flathead CORE meeting on May 22nd.
4. Valerie coordinated special meetings for the board to discuss ongoing litigation with Caitlin Overland (Deputy Flathead County Attorney) and Gregory Bonilla (Managing Defense Counsel for Montana Association of Counties). She also coordinated outreach and procurement of a consultant to review the Hogan 310 permit application, and she reviewed the Stalowy 310 files to develop a timeline of activities.
5. Valerie completed the HB223 grant for Montana Watershed Coordination Council travel, which included compiling the invoices and calculating scholarship totals.
6. Valerie created new fillable PDF forms for: the new cost-share application, 310 complaint form, and 310 emergency form.
7. Valerie conducted Hailey’s one-year performance review and they discussed work plan progress.
8. Valerie attended the Workplace Communication Series through FVCC Continuing Education. The series included: general organizational communication, assertiveness skills, negotiation and presentation, and it included a lot of discussion and role-playing.

On-the-Ground Projects

Cow Creek – Valerie and Samantha Tappenbeck continue to work on documents and meetings for this project. They had a phone conference with Robin Edwards (Erbes family representative) to discuss the landowner agreement and design plans. Valerie scheduled a partner meeting for early June, as well as a site visit with representatives from the City of Whitefish and another with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to get management recommendations regarding the bald eagle nest at the Barnes property. She submitted the joint application to Fish, Wildlife & Parks for a 124 permit and preliminary information to Army Corps of Engineers. She is also working on the status report for DEQ.

Landowner Programs

Seedling Program – Valerie and Hailey helped sort and distribute seedling orders at the DNRC office on May 3rd.

Cost-Share Program – Valerie contacted all of the current cost-share participants to get a status update and schedule follow-up visits. She and Hailey Graf conducted four follow-up



visits in May. Two landowners needed additional time to finish (early June), and one requested an extension.

Education and Outreach

Rolling Rivers Trailer – Since the last business meeting Hailey gave RRT presentations for approximately 425 total students from Glacier High School, St. Mathews Christian School, Whitefish Middle School, and Hedges Middle School.

Family Forestry Expo – Hailey, Valerie, Pete Woll, Dean Sirucek, Ronald Buentemeier, Verdell Jackson, and Donna Pridmore, along with several other volunteers, hosted the Riparian Area station at Expo. Approximately 1,300 students attended, and our station received high ratings from both teachers and guides.

Miscellaneous Education Events – In collaboration with Casey Lewis from the City of Kalispell, Hailey hosted a watershed and pollution prevention activity at the Kalispell Arbor Day on April 26th. Hailey hosted an informational table and kids’ activity about pollinators at Earth Day in Whitefish on April 27th. On May 15th Hailey assisted with the Watershed Stewardship Day at the Flathead Bio Station. Hailey presented the watershed activity during the Whitefish Legacy Partners water education day on May 21st. For Whitefish Lake Institute’s Wetland Education Day on May 23rd, Hailey presented the Rolling Rivers Trailer as one of the stations. Valerie helped facilitate an early educator Project Learning Tree workshop on May 4th, which 15 educators attended.

Demonstration Garden – Hailey submitted an application for the DNRC HB223 grant and will call in to the Resource Advisory Committee meeting on May 29th. Unfortunately, we did not receive funding through the Bayer Feed-a-Bee grant program. Gordie from Flathead County Weed Department sprayed the central area of the demonstration garden on May 16th. Additional spot spraying for weeds will occur this week or next and excavation will (hopefully) begin the first week of June. Hailey will pick up the seasonal water meter from Evergreen Sewer and Water this week. Hailey and Valerie took soil samples and submitted them to a lab for baseline analysis. Hailey recorded video of the effort to make into an outreach video.

Website/social media - Blog post topics for May included: farmers markets, wood ticks, Demonstration Garden construction, and resources for noxious weed identification. Over the last 30 days, the website had 785 users and 1,682 pageviews. The Facebook page reached 2,723 users and 432 post engagements.

Natural Resources & Conservation Service (NRCS): Sean Johnson reported:

Programs

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

- Upcoming Montana Focused Conservation (MFC) Timelines
- Long Range Plan (LRP) – submitted by 9/30/19
- FY20 TIP –submitted by 12/31/19 but only with an approved LRP

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- Sign-up period announced with a sign-up deadline of May 10th



Review Items

- Montana Focused Conservation Steering Committee Meeting, May 13-14 in Red Lodge

Upcoming Items

- Local Working Group (LWG) Meeting date set for May 29, 9:00 A.M. -11:00 A.M. at Forest Service building
- River to Lake (R2L) meeting, June 12th, 9:00 A.M.

Miscellaneous

- NRCS/Flathead CD (FCD) working relationship. On call during 310-meeting, I brought up goal of having district signing off on NRCS conservation plans in future. Correction of having FCD and board review Targeted Implementation Plans (TIP's) should be noted instead of each individual conservation plan.
- Snow Survey, Flathead Basin at 97% of historical average, Sub-basins range from 85% up to 244% of historical average

Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD): Pete Woll reported the MACD Spring board meeting is scheduled to start on June 10. SWCDM has some changes, Pete was not aware of all of them because it is a different board. Several staff recently resigned.

Flathead County Planning Board (FCPB): Dean Sirucek reported the May 8th meeting included five zoning changes/subdivision developments. Four were forwarded with positive recommendations to the county commissioners, and one had a unanimous negative recommendation.

Whitefish City Planning Board (WCPB): John Ellis reported four items were on the meeting agenda. Two were the new rules for multi-family standards in the affordable housing area, one accessory apartment was approved, and a 3-story building on the corner of Lupfer and 2nd Street was rejected 3-1.

Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3): Lori Curtis reported the meeting was held May 15th. Willis Curdy and Mike Cuffe gave legislative updates. UC3 addressed a potential conflict of interest in regard to a Bureau of Reclamation grant it received. Two responses to the RFP were received, and the selected contractor was Whitefish Lake Institute (WLI). Mike Koopal, Executive Director of WLI and member of UC3, stepped down off the committee that will judge the work of the contractor, and Lori will not be involved at all. DNRC's legal staff approved. Another meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC): No meeting.

Flathead Basin Commission (FBC): Dean Sirucek stated the next meeting is June 26th at the Tribal Complex in Pablo.

Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council (CFKRBC): Verdell Jackson stated the next meeting is scheduled for June 7 in Missoula, 1:00 P.M – 4:00 P.M.



MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

Presentation: Dean Sirucek stated he has been asked to give a talk on Post Fire Rehabilitation and Erosion Problems at the Association of American State Geologists meeting at Fairmont Hot Springs on June 10th. He will give a pre-presentation to whoever might be interested this Thursday at 11:30 A.M.

The next 310-meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 10, 2019, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

Adjournment: John Ellis motioned “to adjourn.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 P.M.

Submitted By:

Ginger Kauffman
Administrator

Valerie Kurth, Ph. D.
Resource Conservationist

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

6/24/2019 Pete Woll Chair
(Date) (Signature) (Title – Chair etc.)

